The Supreme Court of South Carolina

State of South Carolina

vs.

Richard Alexander Murdaugh, Defendant.

Colleton County
2022-GS-15-00592
2022-GS-15-00593
2022-GS-15-00594
2022-GS-15-00595

O R D E R

On March 2, 2023, the Defendant was convicted of two counts of murder and two counts of possession of a weapon during the commission of a violent crime, and he was sentenced to life imprisonment on March 3, 2023. On October 27, 2023, the Defendant filed a motion for a new trial, which was denied by the circuit court. On May 13, 2026, the Supreme Court of South Carolina reversed the denial of the Defendant's motion for a new trial and remanded the case to the circuit court, and the remittitur was sent on May 29, 2026.

Pursuant to the provisions of Article V, Section 4 of the South Carolina Constitution,

IT IS ORDERED that the Honorable Debra R. McCaslin be vested with exclusive jurisdiction to hear and dispose of all general sessions matters, including trials by jury and civil forfeiture actions, and all motions arising from the above-referenced indictment numbers. Judge McCaslin's jurisdiction includes jurisdiction over any future retrial on the murder charges and any related matters. Judge McCaslin shall decide all matters pertaining to these indictment numbers, and pursuant to this assignment shall retain jurisdiction over this case regardless of where she may be assigned to hold court.

Pursuant to this assignment, Judge McCaslin is to have and exercise all powers and duties appertaining to a Circuit Judge of the Fourteenth Judicial Circuit while presiding over this matter.

s/ John W. Kittredge
John W. Kittredge
Chief Justice of South Carolina

Columbia, South Carolina
June 8, 2026